

Barracudas do well at swim meet

By SrA. Sarah Franco
Public affairs

This year the Lakenheath Barracudas, which is made up of Lakenheath and Mildenhall family members and active-duty swimmers, had 16 swimmers make the qualification times to swim in the premier event in the county calendar.

"Getting 16 swimmers into the championships this year is quite an accomplishment and says a lot about the dedication and talent of our swimmers," said Keith McCain, head coach. "This represents the largest contingent we have taken to Ipswich in the six years that I have been associated with the team."

The Suffolk County Swimming Championships are held annually at the Ipswich Crown Pools. The meet is attended by approximately 600 swimmers from 13 teams around the county.

This year, the championships took place March 8, 9, 22 and 23. Although Suffolk County is not known as a powerhouse in British swim-

ming, Ipswich and Haverhill swim teams consistently produce numerous swimmers at the national and international level. Headlining this year's participant list was 1993 World Champion and 1996 Olympic finalist Karen Pickering from Ipswich.

Though a team score is kept, the meet is mainly about individual competition. It is run in a series of heats or preliminaries and finals with the top eight finishers in the preliminaries going on to the finals. Points are only awarded in the finals - 8 points to first down to 1 point for eighth.

"The majority of our swimmers did not make it to the finals but we had a good number that did and some of them made finals in multiple events," said McCain.

Thanks to some exceptional swimmers the Barracudas posted their best-ever eighth place finish out of the 13 teams at the meet.

The highest individual placing was third, achieved by Brian Winslow and Donald Odom.

Winslow earned his bronze medal in the 10-year-old 100-meter individual medley, while

Odom's was in the open-age group 100 meter butterfly.

The team's most valuable swimmer for the meet was Odom, who scored 26 points. Other point scorers were Winslow with 8 points; Rachell Morley and Joy Maddox - 5 points; Carmen Gessler and Keith McCain - 4 points; and Dana Shedlosky - 3 points.

"All of our people swam very well, even the ones that didn't make the finals. We had a lot of personal-best times and some were quite remarkable improvements," said McCain. "I'm very proud of all our swimmers. Swimming is a very individual pursuit but it takes a team effort to do the things we have accomplished this year. The championships were just the icing on the cake of a great year."

Anybody interested in swimming on the team can find them at the Lakenheath base pool from 3:30 - 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. - noon Saturdays year-round. The club seeks more swimmers in all age groups - ages 8 - 80 at all levels of ability. Call Ext. 2815 for more information.



Photo by SrA. Jeff Capenos

Tug of war!

Alan Larnach, 3rd Air Force rugby player, fights against Woodbridge players going for a try. The two teams met up Saturday during the Bury St. Edmunds rugby tournament. Woodbridge won the game 21 - 0.

Jets score another win

By John Conroy
Jets coach

Matching their highest score for the season, the Jets ice hockey team whitewashed the Sheffield Scimitars 24 - 0 Saturday at the Peterborough Ice Arena.

The Jets' record now stands at 13-8-3.

"Our guys were all over the ice," said Pete Murphy, team member. "It was like the Sheffield team wasn't even there."

The Jets swarmed over the ice and scored from all angles. Leading the Air Force attack were Rob Harris and Sean Green with four goals apiece.

"We skated hard both ways and our efforts paid off," said Mike Chinlund.

The Jets next play against the SHAPE Canadians from Brussels, Belgium, April 19 and 20 at Peterborough. For more information, call 89-4585.

Sports Shorts

Softball

The fast-pitch softball team seeks players to compete in the London men's fast-pitch league and in international tournaments on the European continent. For details, call Earl Hicks at Ext. 2169.

Green fee registration

The golf course now renews annual memberships. For details, call Ext. 2223.

Aero/golf promotion

The golf course and the aero

club offer a joint special during April. Purchase a discovery flight for \$25 at the aero club and receive a free round of golf and a lesson. For more information, call Ext. 3152 or 2223.

Golf tournament

The Earth Day Challenge Cup golf tournament is April 18 at the golf course. Sponsors seek nine foursome teams from RAFs Lakenheath and Mildenhall. Entry fees are \$15 per person. For details, call Ext. 2583.